

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected the independent claims 1 and 14 of the present application under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Greene (US 6,879,835 B2).

Greene discloses a system and method for transferring data from a sending mobile device to a receiving mobile device, in which the mobile devices need not possess device-specific information. In particular, the sending mobile device does not know any code associated with the receiving mobile device such as a telephone number. The sending mobile device may even not know who will be the recipient for the data sent (col.1, l.29-39).

To achieve this, Greene discloses to perform the steps shown in Figure 7, in particular : receiving a message from a sending mobile device, storing the message in association with the location of the sending mobile device, receiving an indication that a receiving mobile device is proximate to said location and transmitting the message to this receiving mobile device (see Figure 7 and Claim 1 for instance). These steps may be implemented in a message controller 200 as shown in Figure 3.

In this way, a message can be transmitted from a first mobile device to a second mobile device, while the first mobile device does not know any identity about the second mobile device. The second mobile device receives the message due to its proximity with the location where the first mobile device has sent its message.

By contrast, the present invention as claimed in claims 1 and 14 of the present application relates to a very different subject-matter. Indeed, Claim 1 recites a communication system comprising a radio unit, several terminal equipments and a local administration server. The radio unit is arranged for transferring multiple user streams between a cellular network and the respective terminal equipments within the framework of a subscription to the cellular network. Moreover, the local administration server has

means, independent of the cellular network, for supervising the interchanges between the radio unit and the terminal equipments.

In this way, several users can communicate with the cellular network by virtue of their respective terminal equipments, via a single radio unit having a single subscription to the cellular network. It is thus possible e.g. for a first user to have a voice call and for a second user to have a data transfer, possibly at the same time, via only one radio unit.

In the absence of any explicit reference or citation, it is very difficult to understand what the Examiner has considered as a radio unit in Greene. In no way Greene discloses that several terminal equipments such as the devices 30-32 would exchange multiple user streams with a cellular network through a common radio unit and within the framework of a common subscription to the cellular network. On the contrary, it is clear that each device 30-32 has its own subscription and direct communication means with a communication network 100 (see figure 2).

Moreover, as explained above, the role of the message controller 200 of Greene is to temporarily store messages received from mobile devices and to transmit them to other mobile devices when location conditions are satisfied. Such message controller cannot be assimilated to a local administration server comprising means, independent of the cellular network, for supervising interchanges between a radio unit and terminal equipments. On the contrary, Figures 2 and 3 of Greene suggest that the message controller 200 communicate with the mobile devices 30-32 through the communication network 100 and that this communication is made directly with the mobile devices 30-32 without going through a radio unit.

Therefore, the teaching of Greene is very far away from the subject-matter of Claim 1 of the present application. Claim 1 is thus new and non-obvious over Greene. This also applies to Claim 14 for the same reasons. The other claims are acceptable as well, in particular since they depend on Claim 1 or Claim 14 directly or indirectly. In view of the foregoing comments, the Examiner's reconsideration is requested to find the claims allowable over the prior art record.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael L. Kenaga", is written over a horizontal line.

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